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Biennial Report
OF
The Eugenics Board
of North Carolina

JULY 1, 1944
TO
JUNE 30, 1946



R. EUGENE BROWN,
Secretary



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EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

ELLEN WINSTON, PH.D., Commissioner of Public Welfare,
Chairman

HARRY McMULLAN, Attorney General of North Carolina

CARL V. REYNOLDS, M.D., State Health Officer

R. G. BLACKWELDER, M.D., Superintendent, State Hospital,
Raleigh

F. L. WHELPLEY, M.D., Superintendent, State Hospital,
Goldsboro

R. EUGENE BROWN, *Secretary*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

*To his Excellency, R. GREGG CHERRY,
Governor of North Carolina.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor of submitting herewith the report of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina for the biennial period dating from July 1, 1944 through June 30, 1946.

Sincerely yours,

ELLEN WINSTON,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

During the biennial period ended June 30, 1946, a total of 238 sterilization operations were performed under authorization of the Eugenics Board. A total of 282 petitions for sterilization were presented to the Board for consideration during this period, and the Board authorized sterilization in 276 cases.

Only 10 cases were presented to the Board without the written consent of the parent, guardian, or next-of-kin during the biennial period. In these cases the parties concerned were given 15 days notice of an opportunity to be heard by the Board, but since none of the parties concerned appeared for hearings, the Board acted upon the cases in accordance with the information contained in the petitions for sterilization.

Upon the request of the parents of a State Hospital patient for whom the Board had authorized sterilization during the previous biennium, a hearing was held. A few weeks after the hearing the parents gave their consent for the operation. If the case for sterilization is properly presented, the cooperation of the family can be secured in most instances.

The North Carolina sterilization law provides for the sterilization or asexualization of mentally diseased, epileptic and feeble-minded persons when it is believed to be for the best interest of the mental, moral or physical improvement of the individual; or when it is believed to be for the public good; or when such individual would be likely, unless operated upon, to procreate a child or children who would have a tendency to serious physical, mental or nervous disease or deficiency.

There are many misconceptions of the purposes of eugenical sterilization. The effects of sterilization stated briefly are as follows:

1. It has one effect only—it prevents parenthood.
2. It is not a punishment but, on the contrary, it is a protection to the individual as well as to society. Sterilization is not to be regarded as a solution for behavior problems.
3. It in no way unsexes the party sterilized.

4. It permits patients to return to their homes and friends who would otherwise be confined to institutions during the fertile period of life. The records show that many feeble-minded girls released from institutions after sterilization have married and are happy and are succeeding fairly well. They could never have managed and cared for children, to say nothing of the inheritance and fate of such children.
5. It helps to keep husband and wife together in many mild cases of mental disease, by removing the dread by the normal spouse of the procreation of a defective child and permitting normal marital companionship.
6. It is a comparatively simple operation for both men and women. Under conservative laws, sanely and diplomatically administered, sterilization offers to the mentally diseased, mentally defective and their families great relief and great protection to the defenseless child of the future.

Sterilization is approved by the families and friends of those who have had such operations. It is approved by the medical and social work professions generally wherever they have come in contact with these patients.

The effects of asexualization are more drastic than those of sterilization. For this reason the Eugenics Board authorizes this operation only under unusual circumstances upon the specific recommendation of the examining physician.

Since the enactment of the present sterilization law by the General Assembly of 1933 a total of 1,730 operations, including 51 operations for asexualization, have been performed upon authorization of the Eugenics Board while under the previous law enacted by the General Assembly of 1929 only 49 operations had been performed. The average number of operations performed per year since 1929 is approximately 102. Obviously the number of operations performed is too small to be an effective part of a preventive program in the field of eugenics in North Carolina. In order to expand the program it is recommended that a full-time executive secretary be employed.

In January 1945, Dr. Clarence J. Gamble, Milton, Massachusetts offered to contribute \$6,000 to the Eugenics Board for the purpose of making a study in North Carolina to determine the need for sterilization and make the results of the study available for educational purposes. The Board accepted the contribution and plans were developed for making the study in Orange County. This county was selected for the reasons that it is typical of North Carolina counties in many respects and

that the facilities of the University of North Carolina would be more easily available for such a study.

Mr. George H. Lawrence, Associate Professor of Social Work and formerly Orange County Superintendent of Public Welfare, was employed as Field Secretary of the Eugenics Board to make the study. The work is nearing completion and the results will be published sometime early in 1947.

The members of the Eugenics Board have attended the monthly meetings regularly in person or through duly authorized representatives as provided by law. Dr. R. T. Stimpson of the State Board of Health has represented Dr. C. V. Reynolds, State Health Officer, regularly. Honorable Harry McMullan, Attorney General, has been represented regularly by either Mr. J. E. Tucker or Mr. Clifton Beckwith.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF EUGENICS BOARD

	Expenditures		Budget Request	
	Actual 1945-46	Estimated 1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
I ADMINISTRATION:				
101 Salaries—Staff	\$ 1,206.74	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 5,040.00	\$ 5,040.00
102 Supplies and Materials	27.82	40.00	50.00	50.00
103 Postage, Tel. and Tel.	79.18	90.00	100.00	100.00
104 Travel Expense			1,000.00	1,000.00
105 Printing and Binding		75.00	25.00	150.00
106 Subscriptions and Dues	2.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
107 Equipment		50.00	100.00	100.00
108 Emergency Salaries	84.17	120.00	240.00	240.00
109 Salary Increases			1,008.00	1,008.00
Total Administration*	\$ 1,399.91	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 7,568.00	\$ 7,693.00
II COUNTY STERILIZATION PROJECT:				
201 Salaries and Wages	\$ 2,748.50	\$ 620.00	\$	\$
202 Travel Expense	98.47	100.00
203 General Expense	1,780.88	527.39
Total County Project**	\$ 4,627.85	\$ 1,247.39	\$	\$
Total Requirements	\$ 6,027.76	\$ 3,067.39	\$ 7,568.00	\$ 7,693.00

*State Appropriation

**Contribution from Dr. Clarence J. Gamble

TABLE 1
TOTAL NUMBER OF STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—BY TYPE OF OPERATION AND
ORIGIN OF PETITION—JULY 1, 1944 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1946

Origin of Petition	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	Total
State Institution.....	26	5	117	1	149
County Institution.....			5		5
Non-Institution.....	10		74		84
Total.....	36	5	196	1	238

TABLE 2
NUMBER OF CASES HANDLED BY BOARD DURING PAST BIENNIAL PERIOD COMPARED
WITH PREVIOUS PERIODS

Biennial Period	Cases Presented	Operations Authorized	Operations Performed
July 1, 1933—June 30, 1934.....	39	39	31
July 1, 1934—June 30, 1936.....	309	301	252
July 1, 1936—June 30, 1938.....	356	350	296
July 1, 1938—June 30, 1940.....	352	345	305
July 1, 1940—June 30, 1942.....	390	385	339
July 1, 1942—June 30, 1944.....	328	309	269
July 1, 1944—June 30, 1946.....	282	276	238

TABLE 3

EUGENIC STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN NORTH CAROLINA 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1946

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929	1	1		1	3
1930		2	10	5	17
1931			10	1	11
1932		9	7	2	18
1933	1		3		4
1934	7	8	45	1	61
1935	17	7	152	2	178
1936	11	1	86		98
1937	18	3	105	2	128
1938	53	3	144	2	202
1939	34	2	102		138
1940	45	2	112		159
1941	45	4	132		181
1942	32	4	112		148
1943	29	4	119		152
1944	18	2	87		107
1945	15	3	98	1	117
1946 to June 30	7		50		57
Grand Total	333	55	1,374	17	1,779
State Institutional Cases	274	42	762	8	1,086
County Institutional Cases		4	64	3	71
Non-Institutional Cases	59	9	548	6	622

TABLE 4

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929					
1930		1	4	4	9
1931			3		3
1932		9	5	1	15
1933	1		1		2
1934	5	8	31	1	45
1935	9	6	67		82
1936	10		46		56
1937	15	1	66		82
1938	48	2	101	1	152
1939	28	1	41		70
1940	36		58		94
1941	37	1	65		103
1942	29	4	65		98
1943	28	4	75		107
1944	13	2	48		63
1945	11	3	59	1	74
1946 to June 30	4		27		31
Total	274	42	762	8	1,086

TABLE 5
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....		1		1	2
1930.....		1	2		3
1931.....			3	1	4
1932.....					
1933.....					
1934.....			1		1
1935.....		1	10		11
1936.....			5		5
1937.....			3	1	4
1938.....			2		2
1939.....			9		9
1940.....			6		6
1941.....		1	4		5
1942.....			7		7
1943.....			4		4
1944.....			5		5
1945.....			1		1
1946 to June 30.....			2		2
Total.....		4	64	3	71

TABLE 6
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—NON-INSTITUTIONAL

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingeomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1				1
1930.....			4	1	5
1931.....			4		4
1932.....			2	1	3
1933.....			2		2
1934.....	2		13		15
1935.....	8		75	2	85
1936.....	1	1	35		37
1937.....	3	2	36	1	42
1938.....	5	1	41	1	48
1939.....	6	1	52		59
1940.....	9	2	48		59
1941.....	8	2	63		73
1942.....	3		40		43
1943.....	1		40		41
1944.....	5		34		39
1945.....	4		38		42
1946 to June 30.....	3		21		24
Total.....	59	9	548	6	622

TABLE 7

AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF OPERATION OF PERSONS STERILIZED AND ASEXUALIZED IN NORTH CAROLINA—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1946

Age	Vasectomy	Castration	Total Males	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	Total Females	Total
10-19*-----	137	19	156	731	10	741	897
20-29-----	116	22	138	458	4	462	600
30-39-----	61	12	73	173	3	176	249
40-49-----	15	1	16	12	12	12	28
Over 49-----	3	-----	3	-----	-----	-----	3
Unknown-----	1	1	2	-----	-----	-----	2
Total-----	333	55	388	1,374	17	1,391	1,779

*of the 897 cases in this group 113 were under 14—one age 9, one age 10, ten age 11, twenty four age 12, thirty-seven age 13, and forty age 14.

TABLE 8

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS—BY INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF OPERATION—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1946

Insti tution	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
Caswell Training School-----	68	10	101	1	180
Eastern Carolina Training School-----	2	-----	-----	-----	2
Samarcand Manor-----	-----	-----	244	4	248
State Farm Colony for Women-----	-----	-----	9	-----	9
State Hospital at Goldsboro-----	153	24	88	-----	265
State Hospital at Morganton-----	14	-----	16	1	31
State Hospital at Raleigh-----	37	8	302	2	349
State School for Deaf-----	-----	-----	2	-----	2
Total-----	274	42	762	8	1,086

TABLE 9

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO TYPE OF OPERATION AND RACE—
1929 TO JUNE 30, 1946

Type of Operation	White	Negro	Total
Vasectomy.....	168	165	333
Castration.....	28	27	55
Salpingectomy.....	1,126	248	1,374
Ovariectomy.....	16	1	17
Total.....	1,338	441	1,779

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF STERILIZATION CASES WITH REFERENCE TO MENTAL DEFECT,
ORIGIN OF PETITION AND MARITAL STATUS—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1946

Mental Defect as Shown on Petition for Sterilization.	State Inst.	County Inst.	Non- Inst.	Total	Married	Single	Widowed, Divorced or Separated
Mental Disease.....	368	1	16	385	166	197	22
Epilepsy.....	182	5	39	226	52	170	4
Feeble-minded.....	536	65	567	1,168	99	1,027	42
Total.....	1,086	71	622	1,779	317	1,394	68

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Eugenical sterilization in
North Carolina

